



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (WOKING)

REVIEW OF ON-STREET 'PAY AND DISPLAY' PARKING CHARGES IN WOKING BOROUGH

20 OCTOBER 2010

KEY ISSUE

To approve a public consultation about changes to on street pay and display parking charges in Woking Borough.

SUMMARY

In April 2010 Woking Borough Council raised its off street parking charges and made recommendations to Surrey County Council to change on street charges. The County Council as the Highway Authority is consequently seeking the Local Committee's approval to go ahead and formally consult residents and businesses about increasing on street pay and display charges in the Borough.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Woking) is asked to:

- (i) approve the proposed changes to on street parking charges set out in Annexe 2.
- (ii) approve that the new parking charges in Annexe 2 are formally advertised in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
- (iii) Approve that the proposed introduction of on street charging on Sundays and Bank Holidays be formally advertised in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
- (iv) approve that any implementation costs associated with this proposal are funded by the Woking CPZ account.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Surrey County Council is the Highway Authority in Surrey and responsible for managing the highway network including on-street parking. Woking Borough Council act as agent for Surrey and carry out enforcement of the on street parking restrictions in Woking as well as managing their own off street car parks.
- 1.2 On and off street car parking charges create income for both authorities which can be used to provide or subsidise services that both Council's deliver.
- 1.3 Currently, Surrey County Council runs a deficit of approximately £400,000 across the County in the management and enforcement of on street parking restrictions. In Woking on street pay and display parking generated an income of approximately £320,000 during 2009/10. Overall however, the cost of enforcing parking restrictions in Woking Borough cost the County Council £141,425 in 2009/10.
- 1.4 In the current economic climate, with reductions in local authority budgets of up to 40% forecast as part of public spending reviews this situation is not sustainable. Consequently Surrey County Council is in the process of reviewing its on street parking charges across the County.
- 1.5 In November 2008 Woking's Executive agreed to raise off street parking charges in car parks and to introduce Sunday charges. These changes were introduced in April 2010 and are shown in Annexe 1. Woking Executive also agreed in principal to raise on street charges and recommended to the County a new on street charging structure. The current on street charges have not been changed since April 2006.
- 1.6 This report consequently seeks approval from the Local Committee to advertise these changes subject to the statutory consultation processes involved.
- 1.7 There are no plans to change on street parking charges in West Byfleet at the present time.

2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 It is usual in most towns and cites for the cost of on street parking to be more than the off street car parks. This encourages drivers to use off street car parks as a first choice for longer stay parking. The more expensive on street spaces tend to encourage short stay parking which in turn can increase turnover or 'churn'. This has the potential to increase footfall in nearby retail areas.

- 2.2 The existing off street parking charges in Woking are shown in Annexe 1. The proposed new on street charges are shown in Annexe 2. It is proposed to increase the cost of parking for an hour on street in the centre of Woking and Zone 1 from £1 per hour to £1.40. This is the same level of on street charge as Guildford town centre.
- 2.3 It is also proposed to introduce Sunday charging for on street parking in Woking, as was done off street last year. This would encourage use of the car parks on Sundays and means drivers would be less likely to loiter on street waiting for a free space.
- 2.4 These changes and the others shown in Annexe 2 are likely to increase income from on street parking in Woking from approximately £320,000 in 2009/10 to £490,000 in 2010/11. This is an estimate and is subject to other wider economic factors.
- 2.5 Both Councils will also be working together to reduce costs associated with parking enforcement and administration over the coming months in order to improve value for money in parking services.

3 CONSULTATIONS

- 3.1 The proposals in this report have been discussed and approved by the Woking Executive and at officer level between the two authorities. If approved by the Local Committee a formal consultation process will be carried out and the result brought back to the Committee early in 2011.

4 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The deficit in operating parking enforcement in Surrey last financial year was approximately £400,000. The proportion of this cost in Woking was £140,000 with similar figures expected this year. The proposals in this report, if agreed, should help reduce this deficit during 2011/12 and mean increasingly scarce funding can be concentrated on other essential Council services, such as road repairs.
- 4.2 The cost of advertising and implementing these proposals is in the region of £15,000. This would be met from the Woking CPZ account and should be recovered relatively quickly.

5 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are none identified.

6 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are none identified.

7 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 An increase in the cost of on street parking in Woking is needed to help reduce the overall cost of parking management in Woking and across the County. It is recommended that a formal consultation is carried out about new on street parking charges as shown in Annexe 2.

8 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The County Council needs to reduce the cost of parking enforcement across the County. Increasing the cost of on street charges helps to do this in Woking and so contribute toward a wider reduction. Reinstating the differential between on street and off street is also in line with good practice nationally and Surrey's new parking policy

9 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 9.1 If approved, the new charges set out in Annexe 2 will be advertised following a consultation process in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. Any objections and comments received will be reported back to the Local Committee for a final decision early in the New Year.

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